

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/519,690**
Amendment filed March 8, 2007
Reply to OA dated December 15, 2006

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowability of Claims 14 - 18. Those claims have been amended to place them in allowable form. The specification has been amended to remove references to specific claims. No new matter is involved.

Claim 1, the only remaining independent claim that was rejected in the Office Action, has been amended to clarify the same, with contents of original dependent Claims 4 - 7 and 11 incorporated therein, while those dependent claims have now been cancelled.

As now amended, Claim 1 is to a feeder assembly that includes space receiving a wiring harness to be bent, a sliding member provided in the wiring harness, and a sliding guide, being formed as one of a mountain shape, slanted from one end to another end, and having a straight portion and a slanted portion following the straight portion, being provided in the space, to guide the sliding member. The space is provided in a protector and the sliding guide is provided in the lengthwise direction of the protector, and a long opening to swing the wiring harness is provided in the lengthwise direction of the protector and an opening of the wiring fixing side is provided in one end side of the protector. Such a feeder assembly is not taught or suggested in the prior art.

In the Office Action, Claim 1 is rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by Murofushi et al. (U.S. 6,492,592); Claims 1 - 4, 11 - 13 were rejected as anticipated by Tsubaki (U.S. 7,042,738); and Claims 5 - 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious in view of Tsubaki. Reconsideration and removal of these rejections are respectfully requested in view of the present amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

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Claim 1 has not been extensively amended, such that the rejection based on Murofushi et al. is now moot. The remaining claims were variously rejected as being anticipated by or obvious in view of Tsubaki, and the amendments to Claim 1 are such that this rejection is no longer viable.

The feeder assembly of now amended Claim 1 requires that, among other features, the sliding guide is either a mountain shape, slanted from one end to the other end, and having a straight portion and a slanted portion following the straight portion, and a space is provided in a protector with the sliding guide provided in the lengthwise directions of the protector, as well as a long opening to swing the wiring harness provided in the lengthwise direction of the protector and an opening of the wiring fixing side provided in one end side of the protector.

The now claimed specified arrangement provides a guide shape which enables compactness which is not taught or suggested in the prior art, and is unobvious.

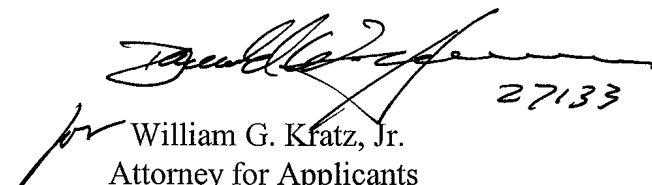
In view of the present amendments to the claims, and the above remarks, Claims 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 are believed to be patentable in addition to Claims 14 - 18 and early action towards allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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